

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /060 W
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R 251529Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2115

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG IS PFOR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DESIRE PROVIDE RED CRESCENT TO
SINAI POPULATION

1. DURING MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, HE ALLUDED TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER PERES VISITED EL-ARISH FEB 24 TO SUPERVISE RESCUE OPERATIONS REQUIRED BY FLASH FLOODS IN THAT AREA. SOME 100 HOUSE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED AND TEN PERSONS KILLED. ESTIMATED VOLUME OF FLOOD WATER CALCULATED BY "EXPERTS" AS NO LESS THAN ONE MILLION CUBIC METERS PER HOUR. USUALLY DRY BED OF EL-ARISH CREED CONVERTED INTO A RIVER, WHOSE RAPD FLOW ENDAGERS MORE HOUSES, VEHICLES AND POPULATION CAMPING SITES.
2. GOE DESIRES THAT ITS RED CRESCENT SOCIETY BE PERMITTED TO ASSIST AND OFFER TO HELP THE VICTIMS AND POPULATION OF THE AREA. EGYPTIAN RC REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AREA. GOE REQUESTS USG ASSISTANCE IN URGING GOI TO AGREE.
3. I TOLD FAHMY THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING SOME US RELIEF ASSISTANCE MAY BE PROVIDED THROUGH ICRC FOR STRICKEN SINAI REGION. SIRRI, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT,
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RECALLED THAT RED CRESCENT ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPTIAN INHABITANTS

OF SINAI HAS LONG BEEN RESISTED BY THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES.
FREQUENT GOE EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS TO DO SO, EVEN
THROUGH THE ICRC, HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PREVENTED BY THE
ISRAELIS WHO HE ALLEGED DO NOT WANT THE EGYPTIAN POPULATION
OF SINAI TO RECEIVE EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE. GOE SEES THIS
AS CONSCIOUS ISRAELI POLICY TO SEVER THE TIES BETWEEN
THE SINAI POPULATION AND EGYPT. THE PEOPLE OF SINAI,
FAHMY INTERVENED, ARE EGYPTIAN CITIZENS AND GOE
HAS AN OBLIGATION AND A DESIRE TO ASSIST THEM. IN "NEW
CIRCUMSTANCES" THAT HAVE ARISEN DURING PAST YEAR, HE
HOPED GOI WILL ON THIS OCCASION AGREE TO SUCH EGYPTIAN
RED CRESCENT HELP. ANTHING USG ABLE TO DO TO
PERSUADE GOI TO ACQUIESCE WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.
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